Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs). Under this scheme, the Ministry of Environment and Forests provides a grant to the tune of Rs. 2 crores with a proportionate contribution from the State Government for setting up of TSDF on a Public Private Partnership involving the Central and State Government and a private enterprise through Build Operate Own (BOO) principle.

Monitoring the course of river channels

1257. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is an engineering necessity to monitor regularly the course of river channels upstream/downstream of all bridges, dams, weirs, etc. which affect the natural flow of the rivers so that likely damages to pucca structures across the rivers are remedied in time; and

(b) the names of rivers in respect of which this is not being done and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Commission (CWC) carries out gauge, discharge, sediment study and observes pre and post monsoon cross section on important rivers on regular basis at selected location. These information are used for specific study and in carrying out design of important structures on river course. While monitoring. specially for the course of river channels, upstream/downstream of all Bridges, Dams and Weirs are not carried out by CWC, morphological study of rivers Gandak, Ghaghara and Sutlaj, using remote sensing technique, is done. This includes performance evaluation of major flood control/hydraulic structures such as embankment, spurs and bridges executed so far from morphological point of view as well as their effect on river behavior.

Environmental conservation project

†1258. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environment is being affected due to mining in coastal areas, atomic energy plants and construction of illegal hotels near sea shores:

(b) whether it is also a fact that fishermen are losing their livelihood due to destruction of environment; and

(c) the efforts being made to plug the loopholes in environment conservation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) All developmental activities in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

coastal areas are considered under Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and/or Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. Such projects are accorded clearance under the said notifications after incorporating appropriate Environment Management Plan. As far as construction of illegal hotels are concerned the respective State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authority have been delegated necessary powers to take action against such violations under the provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(b) Since due concerns are taken while according environmental clearance to the projects, there is no significant destruction of environment, hence the fishermen loosing the livelihood does not arise.

(c) The projects which have been accorded clearance under the said notifications are monitored regularly and wherever necessary environmental conservation and management measures are incorporated.

Withdrawal of ban on trade of tigers

†1259. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is demanding for the withdrawal of ban imposed on the trade of tigers;

(b) whether the issue of continuing the ban imposed on organs trade was raised in the meeting of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) to protect the species of tigers; and

(c) the efforts being made to stop poaching of tigers and to make changes in the Wildlife Protection Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No official intimation in this regard has been received.

(b) Yes Sir. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES (Convention on International Trade, in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which was adopted with minor amendments. The said resolution, *interalia*, has directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China for phasing out tiger farming, and eliminating stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

(c) The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 has been amended during 2006 to provide enabling provisions for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau, which have

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